

**Conference on Labor/Management Relations
at the Passenger Railroads
Thursday, September 25 and Friday, September 26, 2008**

**Hilton Washington
1919 Connecticut Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20009
Telephone: 202-483-3000**

Thursday, September 25

8:15 – 9:00 Registration

**9:00 – 10:00 Welcome/Introduction of Keynote Speaker - NMB Chairman Read Van de Water
Keynote Speaker – Congressman James L. Oberstar, Chair, Transportation and
Infrastructure Committee**

10:00 – 10:15 Morning Break

10:15 – 12:00 Bargaining Update I

- Pattern Bargaining/Settlements- What defines whether a “pattern” has been established in the eyes of labor and management?
- Pace of Negotiations
- What is a reasonable time to complete negotiations?
- Role of the NMB

Moderator: Ernie DuBester, Mediator, NMB

Panel Members: Thomas Roth, President, Labor Bureau, Inc.; Don Griffin, Director of Strategic Coordination & Research, BMWED; Josh Javits, Arbitrator; Michael Nielson, Senior Director – Corporate Administration, METRA; Charles Woodcock, Assistant Vice President - Labor Relations, AMTRAK.

Lunch 12:00 – 1:30

1:30 – 3:15 Bargaining Update II

PEB Awards – Since the last Labor/Management Passenger Rail Conference, there have been PEBs at Metro North, Amtrak, SEPTA . Representatives from these carriers, both labor and management will express their viewpoints on what happened leading up to the PEB; what the end results were; and any implications or impact from the decision that was not expected?

Moderator: John Livingood, Mediator, NMB

Panel Members: Ray Burney, Director - Labor Relations, Metro North, Dan Pickett, International President, BRS; Joseph Bress, Vice President – Labor Relations, AMTRAK; Roland Wilder, Esq., Baptiste & Wilder; Harry Rissetto, Esq., Morgan Lewis; Jeff Sheridan, Manager – Labor Relations, SEPTA.

3:15 – 3:30 Afternoon Break

3:30 – 5:00 Collaborative Processes/Team Building

- How to Improve Labor – Management Relations
- What are the stumbling blocks to a better relationship?
- Areas to Focus On for Improvement
- Facilitated Problem Solving Techniques
- What common goals exist that can help forge a better relationship (e.g., settling or minimizing claims filed; reaching settlements more quickly)

Moderator: Linda Puchala, Senior Mediator – ADR, NMB

Panel Members: Cynthia Bacon, Chief Negotiator, PATH; Tony Iannone, Vice President, UTU; Dennis Boston, Vice President - Commuter, BRS; Steve Drayzen, Vice President - Labor Relations, LIRR; Christa Phillips, Manager - Labor Relations, MBCR; Arthur J. Davidson, Secretary - Treasurer, IBEW System Council No. 7.

6:00 – 7:30 Cocktail Reception at the Hilton Washington (Cash Bar)

Friday, September 26

9:00 – 10:00 Section 3 - Arbitration

- Backlog of grievances
- Methods to more efficiently handle grievances
- Expedited processes

Moderator: Roland Watkins, Director - Arbitration Services, NMB

Panel Members: Marcus Ruef, Vice President, BLET; Andy Paul, Deputy Director - Labor Relations, Metro North; David Vaughn, Arbitrator; Steve Powers, Assistant to President, BMWED; Barry Simon, Arbitrator; Mike Chirillo, Director - Labor Relations, LIRR.

10:00 – 10:15 Morning Break

10:15 – 12:00 Coalition Bargaining

- Viewpoints from labor, management, and legal sides –Likes/dislikes, pros/cons, and legal aspects
- What is or isn't a coalition-can it be defined?
- How does the NMB view coalitions?

Moderator: Terri Brown, Mediator, NMB

Panel Members: William Murphy, Vice President, New Jersey Transit; Jack Kane, Mediator, NMB; Rick Radek, Vice President, BLET; Doug Hall, Esq., Ford & Harrison; Joel Parker, Vice President, TCU; George Francisco, President, NCFO.

12:00 Closing Remarks – NMB Board Member